Experimental Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

5 March 2003

National Ocean Service/NCCOS and CSC

NESDIS/CoastWatch and NDBC

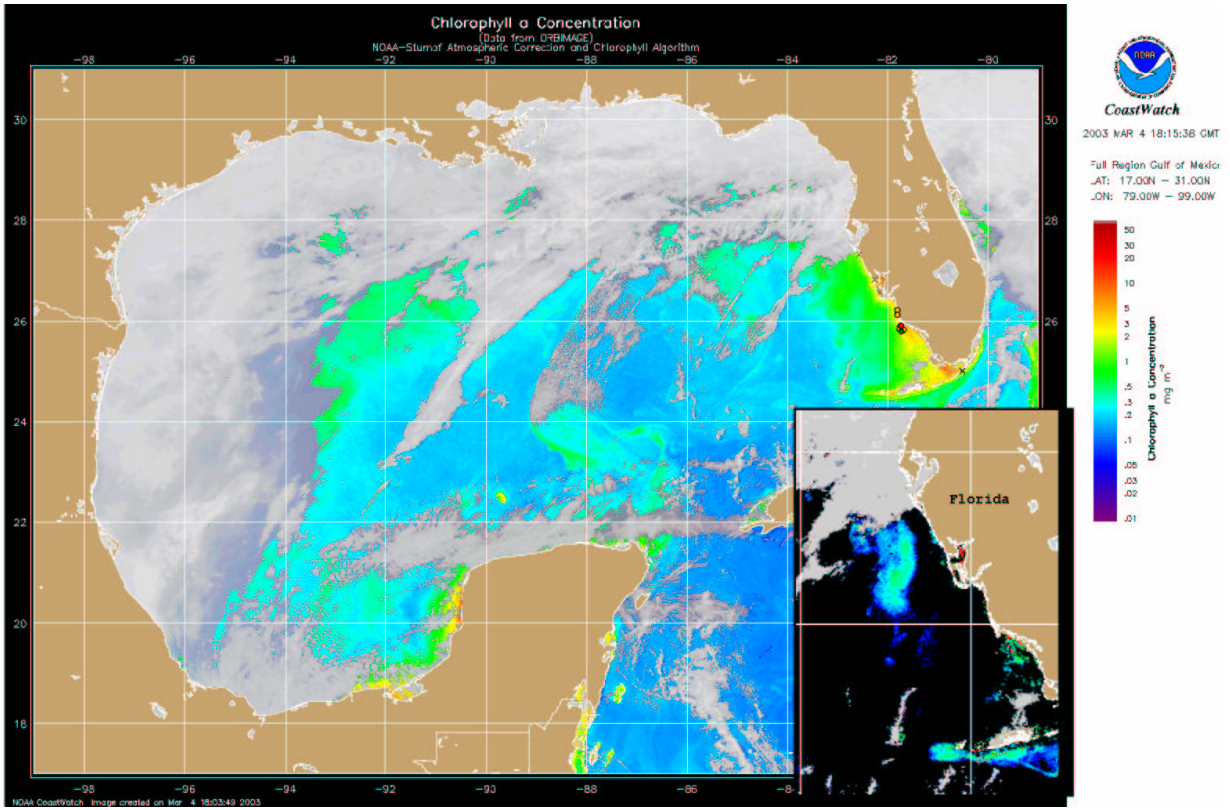
Last bulletin: February 20, 2003

Analysis

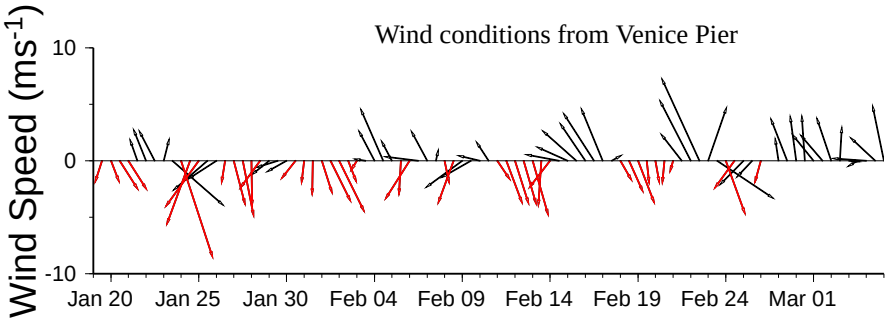
SW Florida: The area from Cape Romano south to 81d25'W 25d30'N continues to be flagged in the imagery (Note: green areas are suspicious in this region due to a persistent period of increased chlorophyll). Chlorophyll in the area has reached levels between 3-5 ug/L. This area should still be monitored although the bloom most likely is not all K. brevis.

Florida Keys: Chlorophyll has increased about 0.5-0.9 ug/L on the outer reef tract from Marquesas to Looe Key. Somewhat less of an increase is observed northeast to near Molasses Reef. This is not a blackwater event. Divers may report poorer visibility along the reef tract then normally expected.

-Tomlinson



Chlorophyll concentration (above) and possible HAB areas shown in red (inset). Cell concentration sampling data from February 25, 2003 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red circles (low), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on NOAA buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast.

Winds are are predicted to continue blowing from the south to southwest through Friday.
